

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 21 July 2003 (21.07.03);
claims 1-13 replaced by amended claims 1-7 (2 pages)]

1. A device for facilitating the reading of a book by holding its pages in an open position, said device including an elongate member for spanning and supporting the cover of an open book, wherein the elongate member has arms projecting from opposite ends, and end-pieces formed as separate components have pivotal connections with the arms whereby the end pieces are mounted to move pivotally relative to the elongate member, and the end-pieces include finger portions directed inwardly towards each other at opposite ends of the elongate member and lever portions projecting outwardly to the opposite side of the respective pivotal connection, wherein the finger and lever portions together are generally in the shape of a plane which has been curved in one dimension, and each of said end-pieces is provided with a respective spring element having an end which bears against the end-piece to urge the respective finger portion towards the elongate member to press against the pages of the open book,

characterised in that

the arms are angularly disposed with respect to the elongate member, projecting inwardly, each spring element has an end which bears against the respective arm, and the finger and lever portions are in the form of a curved strip which extends towards the opposite end-piece.

2. A device according to Claim 1 wherein each end-piece includes a pair of spaced walls and each spring element is in the form of a coil spring mounted on a pivot pin extending between said pair of spaced walls to pivotally secure the end-piece to the respective arm.

3. A device according to Claim 1, wherein an end of each finger portion has a substantially straight margin which extends substantially parallel to the axis of said pivotal connection for contact with the pages.
4. A device according to Claim 3, wherein said end of the finger portion is arcuately curved in a plane which is normal to its length.
5. A device according to Claim 1, wherein the elongate member includes inner and outer telescopically-engaged elements whereby the distance between the end-pieces can be adjusted.
6. A device according to Claim 5, wherein the elongate member includes a platform which projects on opposite sides of said telescopically-engaged elements to support the cover of an open book.
7. A device according to Claim 6, wherein said platform is provided by a platform element and an underside of the platform is provided with means for engagement with said outer telescopically-engaged element.